

Appl. No. : 09/945,377
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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 30 as follows:

A2
The hinge deflector 165 shown in detail in Figures 4-7 comprises a thin walled shell 400 which is configured to encase the hinge assembly. The shell 400 has a generally elliptical shape as viewed in Figures 4 and 5. The shell has an outer or hinge side 415 which faces the hinge, encasing the hinge assembly, and facing away from the knee. The shell also has an inner side 420 which faces the knee, and thus may be referred to as the knee side. As seen in Figures 2 and 3, the shell is actually positioned between the knee and the brace hinge, although shell portions extend to the outer side of the hinge.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17 as follows:

B3
193
The outer side 415 includes a projection 405 which extends along a majority of the length of one side of the elliptically-shaped shell 400. This can be referred to as the forward side or edge in that it is the side closest to the forward portion of a person's knee when the brace is in use. The projection includes a straight inner wall 405a which protrudes from the recess 415 and the surrounding surface 422, with a portion of that wall being flush with one side of the wall of the recess. The projection includes an outer surface 405b which slopes toward a peripheral skirt 442, and an outer edge of the shell 400, as seen in Figure 7. While the central portion of the projection curves basically toward the edge, as seen in Figure 7, the projection ends taper or curve to the surface 422, as seen in Figures 4 and 6.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 15 as follows:

A4
Resilient pad similar to the pad 180 shown on hinge 155 in Figure 1 is preferably releasably fastened to the shell inner side 420 by conventional releasable fastening means such as a hook and hoop fastener coupling, commonly referred to as VELCRO, wherein one element of the coupling is substantially permanently affixed to the inner side 420 and the other element of the coupling is substantially permanently affixed to resilient pad 180. The resilient pad may be any knee brace pad, as known to those of skill in the art.